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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending August 4, 1944

Fruits and Vegetables:

Apricots: Movement of apricots into markets is now about completed, especially in California where shipments are now confined to truck lots to local markets. From Washington and the other western apricot producing states movement by rail continues at about 45 cars daily.

Canneries which have been handling apricots are now turning their attention to peaches.

Prices of apricots on the wholesale markets of the west have, on the average, increased a cent a pound during the past week. In Los Angeles they were selling mostly at 7 to 9 cents per pound for average good quality stock. In Portland up to 14 cents, in Seattle from 9 to 10 cents and in San Francisco up to 9 cents per pound.

Drying operations are now in full swing with the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Santa Clara Valleys considerably ahead of southern California districts. Prices being paid to growers ranged from 27 to 32 cents per pound on bin run stock and the market was quite active during the week.

Peaches: Both truck and carlot movement of peaches is now reaching heavy proportions particularly in California where the peach crop is one of the heaviest on record. Latest estimates indicate the California crop to be approximately 728,000 tons, of which 451,000 tons are of the clingstone varieties used principally for canning. Housewives should be able, during the next thirty days, to purchase for canning ample supplies of Paloras, Tuscans, Peeks and other clingstone varieties. These three varieties are now on the western wholesale markets at prices from $1.00 to $2.00 per lug of three layers of peaches (24 lbs.

Freestone peaches, while decreasing in volume from Georgia and the Carolinas, are increasing in volume from California and although the season is late this year quantities are almost equal to those of last year and the average seasonal movement of previous years.

Prices of freestone peaches on the western markets closed the week at 75 cents to $3.00 per lug, depending upon variety and size. J. H. Hales and Elbertas on the four main western markets sold from $1.25 in the south to $3.00 per lug in the north.

Plums: The Northwest reported first plums from local orchards arriving on the Markets this week, and Apex and Beautys, sold at $1.25 to $1.50 per flat.

Cherries: Small shipments of cherries are still moving into the markets from the Northwest, but the crop there is about all harvested. Prices closed the week at 11 to 12½ cents per pound for pie stock and up to 22 cents per pound on Bings.

Grapes: Movement of table grapes is increasing in volume, with shipments out of California, Arizona and Arkansas up to 45 cars daily. On the wholesale markets of the West, prices have been holding at from 25 to 35 cents per pound for Thompson Seedless and Red Malagas. Other varieties now reaching the market are,

Ladyfinger, Black Monukka, Ditmar and Ribier.

Pears: Bartlett pears have been moving out of California at the rate of 50 cars daily. This movement is not so heavy as for last year for the same period, and total shipments now amount to 1033 cars, less than half that for the same period last year when the California crop was exceedingly large. This year the crop is only 187,000 tons, 25 percent less than the 1943 crop and 19 percent less than the 1933-41 average. The Pacific Northwest crop is just the reverse. The crop there is estimated at nearly 281,000 tons, 43 percent greater than last year and 22 percent greater than the 10-year average. The total crop for the U.S. this year, is about equal to the 10-year average.

Bartlett pears from the Grandview section of Washington are now on the Seattle wholesale market and sold Friday at $4.00 per lug. California pears on western wholesale markets brought on Friday $4.25 to $5.25 per box for U. S. No. 1 grade, packed and wrapped.

Onions: There is still a large supply of Stockton red onions begging a market. Wholesale prices Friday were quoted at $1.00 to $1.50 per 50-pound bag on Oregon and California Markets. In Washington they were quoted as high as $2.25 per bag.

Yellow Globe onions from the Walla Walla district in Washington are on the wholesale markets of the northwest at $1.80 to $2.35 per 50-pound bag.

Dairy and Poultry Products:

Eggs: Supplies of all sizes of eggs continue to move into the wholesale markets in comparative heavy volume. Although there is the usual seasonal decline, receipts on the western markets are 14 percent greater for this week than for the same period last year.

Prices on large grade "A" eggs have remained almost the same through-out the week, Smalls and large "B" declined as much as 2 cents per dozen. These and storage stocks have had a depressing effect on the markets.

Butter: Demand in the West for butter continued during the week to exceed supply. At the same time, retail sales appeared less this week than last and for the same period last year. Stockpiles are also continuing to decline, although ration points per pound are up and receipts are greater for this past week than for the corresponding week last year. Prices remain at ceiling.

Poultry: In the Northwest, leghorn and colored hens were in heavy supply during the past week although prices to both producers and wholesalers remained largely unchanged. Producer prices averaged about 24 cents.

In California markets there appeared to be an upward trend toward the end of the week and fob paying prices reached as much as 2 cents higher on leghorn fowl.

Grain Products:

Wheat: In the Pacific Northwest selling pressure on wheat was down and producers appeared to be holding supplies at country points. Cash wheat prices at Portland closed the week at $1.45 for Soft White and $1.47 per bushel for Western Red.

In the middlewestern markets, prices declined but milling demand remained moderately good. Receipts at the nine principal markets were approximately 18 percent lighter this past week than for the week previous, but about 31 percent more than those of the same week a year ago. Prices on these markets were generally about ½ cent lower than for the week earlier.

Barley: Barley markets declined during the past week, with San Francisco being the exception. Prices for No. 1 Bright Western barley testing 46 pounds per bushel were $2.32½ and $2.35 per 100 pounds on the California markets. At Portland, prices dropped as much as 5 cents below those of the previous week. As the result of increased offerings, and the largest receipts of record, prices were down and demand considerably below receipts on the Kansas City market.

Rice: Prospects for a good rice crop are reported to be good throughout most of the southern rice belt and in California. Harvesting of the Louisiana crop began during the later part of July. Dry hot weather there has materially accelerated maturity of the crop, and the lack of rain has raised the possibility that there may be salt water damage in some of fields of the later varieties.

Beans: The second revision of MPR 270 became effective August 3, providing for increased mark-ups at handlers' levels and prohibiting pyramiding of mark-ups.

Livestock and Meats:

Sheep: The BAE reports that estimates made on the 1944 lamb crop point toward a smaller crop than that for 1943 by about 5½ percent as the result of fewer breeding ewes having been kept on farms and ranges. The crop as estimated is the smallest of any since 1937 and is 3 percent below the 10-year average.

Prices ranged upward during the past week from 25 to 65 cents, and top prices paid on the western markets were from $13.50 to $14.90 per hundred pounds.

Cattle: Receipts of cattle held about the same during the week, but were much heavier than a year ago. On the twelve principal markets receipts were 20 percent above those for the same period in 1943.

Top prices received during the week on western markets for good fed steers ran from $14.10 to $16.75, and on grass fed stock, $12.50 to $15.00, with the Los Angeles market showing up high in both instances.

Hogs: Receipts of hogs fell off slightly this week, and prices on the Pacific Coast advanced as much as 25 cents per hundred. On other Western Region markets receipts and prices remained about the same as for the week previous.

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